That which is claimed is:

1. An isolated anti-NAC antibody having specific reactivity with a NAC, said NAC comprising a NB-ARC domain, a CARD domain and a TIM-Barrel-like domain.

2. Antibody according to claim 1, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

3. A cell line producing the monoclonal antibody of claim 2.

4. An antibody according to claim 1, wherein said antibody is a polyclonal antibody.

5. A therapeutic composition comprising a compound selected from a NAC, or functional fragment thereof, a NAC modulating agent, or an anti-NAC antibody; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, said NAC modulating agent identified by a method comprising:

a) contacting said NAC and NAP proteins, under conditions that allow said NAC and NAP proteins to associate, with an agent suspected of being able to alter the association of said NAC and NAP proteins; and

b) detecting the altered association of said NAC and NAP proteins, wherein said altered association identifies an effective agent.

6. A method of treating a pathology characterized by abnormal cell proliferation or abnormal inflammation, said method comprising administering an effective amount of the composition according to claim 5.

7. A method of diagnosing a pathology characterized by an increased or decreased level of a NAC in a subject, comprising the steps of:

a) obtaining a test sample from the subject;

b) contacting said test sample with an agent that can bind said NAC under suitable conditions, which allow specific binding of said agent to said NAC; and

c) comparing the amount of said specific binding in said test sample with the amount of specific binding in a control sample, wherein an increased or decreased amount of said specific binding in said test sample as compared to said control sample is diagnostic of a pathology.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said agent is an anti-NAC antibody or a NAC-associated-protein (NAP).

9. A method of modulating transcription comprising contacting a cell with a compound selected from the group consisting of: a NAC protein or functional fragment thereof, an agent, and an anti-NAC antibody, said agent identified by a method comprising:

a) contacting said NAC and NAP proteins, under conditions that allow said NAC and NAP proteins to associate, with an agent suspected of being able to alter the association of said NAC and NAP proteins; and

b) detecting the altered association of said NAC and NAP proteins, wherein said altered association identifies an effective agent.

10. A method of diagnosing cancer or monitoring cancer therapy comprising contacting a test sample from a patient with the antibody of claim 1.

11. A method of assessing prognosis of patients with cancer comprising contacting a test sample from a patient with the antibody of claim 1.